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These minor deficiencies, however, detract little from the general high excellence of the work. The author moves with masterly ease amidst the intricate relationships of business and of politics in New York and fulfills the promise of his introduction. His book abounds in illuminating characterizations, acute observations, useful quotations, and suggestive philosophic conceptions. A few portraits add to the interest. To the special student of the history of New York this contribution affords indispensable information; to the more general student of history a conspectus of the history of the state between 1800 and 1840 on the whole sound and in many portions brilliant; and to all workers in the "social" sciences a valuable historical exposition of the interrelationships of business, society, and politics.

WILLIAM TRIMBLE.

The American Colonization Society, 1817-1840. By EARLY LEE FOX, Ph.D., Professor of History in Randolph-Macon College. [Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science, series XXXVII., no. 3.] (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press. 1919. Pp. 231. \$2.00.)

IN this volume the author represents the colonization movement as essentially a moderate, conservative, border-state movement which had an appeal to men in every walk of life, from every political and religious creed, and from every section of the Union. He divides the history of the American Colonization Society into two distinct divisions: the first, to which this volume is devoted, begins with the organization of the society in 1817 and extends to 1840; the second covers the period since 1840. This volume ends with the reorganization of the society in 1839, after which date the society, under the influence of the North and the East, was more aggressively anti-slavery in its programme and activities. In the first chapter, the author discusses at considerable length the status of the free negro and his relation to the slave and to the white population; in the second, the organization, purpose, and early history of the society; in the third, fourth, and last chapters, the relation of colonization to Garrisonian abolition, to emancipation, and to the African slave-trade respectively.

While the book contains much that is new and interesting, the material is very poorly arranged and there is much repetition in the numerous quotations. Nearly ninety per cent. of the citations are either from the *African Repository* or from the official records of the different departments of colonization societies. The book contains no bibliography and little or nothing to indicate that the numerous studies of colonization, emancipation, and slavery have been consulted. It would have been much more valuable if in this single volume the study had been carried on through the period of the Civil War. The author makes no serious attempt to tabulate the growth in number of members and in

the number of affiliated societies at different intervals, neither is reference made to such tabulations as have been made by other students.

The colonization movement is represented as one of numerous plans for bringing about a satisfactory and practical solution of the negro problem. The various classes that were affiliated with the organization at different times and the motives of each are interestingly described, as well as the relation of the colonization movement to the other movements that had as their chief object the solution of the negro problem. The influence of the American Colonization Society as an agency for shaping public opinion and for accomplishing any one of the things for which the society was created appears to have been overestimated. While the general work of the society was officially approved by numerous state legislatures, by Congress, and by the leading religious and philanthropic organizations, the financial assistance from all sources was always small. The total expenditure of the society up to November, 1838, was only \$379,644.15; and in 1838, the receipts for the year amounted to only \$11,597. The number of slaves actually transported to Africa was very small, numbering during the entire period less than the annual increase of the free negro population. The propaganda of the society, in the form of publications and speeches, was astonishingly small as compared with the Garrisonian abolition organization. The society did have many men of eminence affiliated with it, and, consequently, its influence in centring public attention on the slavery question was considerable.

The author attempts to prove that the average slaveholder in the border states as well as hundreds of those in the Lower South, before 1840, felt that slavery was not only an evil but detrimental to their best interests, and they were earnestly and eagerly looking for a practical solution of the problem. Colonization made a special appeal to this class.

The book contains much valuable information, and it is to be hoped that the author will carry the study on through the period of the Civil War.

ASA E. MARTIN.

Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1916. Volume II. Correspondence of R. M. T. Hunter, 1826-1876. Edited by CHARLES HENRY AMBLER. (Washington: Government Printing Office. 1918. Pp. 383.)

THE Historical Manuscripts Commission of the American Historical Association has rendered students an excellent service in the publication of this fragment of the correspondence of R. M. T. Hunter, senator from Virginia during the decade immediately preceding the outbreak of civil war. The pity of it is that there are no more letters of Hunter himself, who was certainly a very influential figure in the shaping of the issues that ripened into war. Professor Ambler, who has done his